

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227065

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, CG, NI

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA OUTWARD BOUND

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM EASUM

1. SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER, IN THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE LUNCH I HAD WITH HIM IN NEW YORK TWO WEEKS AGO, REQUESTED MY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO CONTACTS SOUTH AFRICA WISHED TO INITIATE WITH "KEY MODERATE LEADERS OF BLACK AFRICA," IN PARTICULAR LIBERIA, NIGERIA AND ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO MULLER, THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT HAS SOMETHING NEW TO SAY TO AFRICAN CRITICS. IT IS ALREADY SAYING THESE THINGS TO SOME SELECTED AFRICAN LEADERS BUT SOUGHT US INTERCESSION IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO BROADEN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCH COMMUNICATION. I SAID I WOULD SEE WHAT WE COULD DO ALONG THE LINE OF THE INTERMEDIARY ROLE WE HAD ALREADY PLAYED IN RESPONSE TO ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA'S SIMILAR INITIATIVE.

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2. I SUBSEQUENTLY HAD OCCASION TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH

NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER ARIKPO. HE SAID
HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE DR. MULLER. WE HAVE PASSED
THAT WORD AND BELIEVE CONTACT OF SOME SORT HAS TAKEN PLACE

OR IS BEING PLANNED.

3. I HAVE HAD SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE QUESTION
WITH ZAIRE FONMIN UMBA DI LUTETE, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY
INFORMED ME OF MOBUTU'S PERSONAL APPROVAL OF SUCH CONTACT
PROVIDED IT REMAINED "ABSOLUTELY SECRET." I HAVE RELAYED
THIS RESPONSE TO DR. MULLER, WHO HAS NOW DECIDED THAT THE
FIRST CONTACT SHOULD BE PREFERABLY AT HIS OWN LEVEL RATHER
THAN THAT OF VORSTER. ORIGINALLY HE HAD ENVISAGED A
VORSTER MEETING WITH MOBUTU SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE EITHER
BEFORE OR AFTER MOBUTU'S UPCOMING DECEMBER VISIT TO
MOSCOW. NOW MULLER SUGGESTS THAT HE, MULLER, MEET WITH
WHOMEVER MOBUTU WISHES AND AT WHATEVER SITE MOBUTU SHOULD
PROPOSE. HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TRY IT IN KINSHASA OR
ANYWHERE ELSE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: YOU SHOULD PASS TO UMBA, OR TO
MOBUTU IF UMBA IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE ABOVE RESPONSE FROM
MULLER. MULLER WILL LOOK TO AMBASSADOR HURD TO RELAY
FROM YOU ANY MESSAGE UMBA OR MOBUTU SHOULD WISH TO SEND
HIM. UMBA STRESSED HE DID NOT WANT ANYONE IN ZAIRE OTHER
THAN MOBUTU, YOU AND HIMSELF TO KNOW ABOUT THIS. I HAVE
TOLD MULLER THIS. I BELIEVE HE WOULD GENERALLY APPRECIATE

ZAIROIS SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT ANYWAY. EMBASSY
CAPE TOWN SHOULD BE SIMILARLY WARY. KISSINGER

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